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FOOTBALL: Taylor relieved to avoid giantkilling



Wealdstone's hat-trick hero Alex Reid steps up to take a penalty against Gosport

Image: Jon Taffel

Stones boss delighted with FA Cup progress

MATT Taylor cut a relieved figure after his struggling Wealdstone side thrashed Gosport Borough 4-1 to reach the first round of the FA Cup.

Oldham loanee Alex Reid's hat-trick capped off a convincing second-half display from the Stones after some first-half issues highlighted by Taylor.

"In the first half, we were a little bit passive. We didn't move the ball quick enough or with enough speed to try and shift the opposition around," he told the club's website.

"We conceded a terrible goal, and we put Alex in front of goal, and it was fortuitous the way the ball pops back to him, but he puts it in the back of the net.

"At half-time, your role as a coach or manager is to find a way to change if what you're seeing isn't up to the level

By TOM NORTON
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you want, and that's the reality of today.

"We made two substitutions, and I thought both players, when they came on the pitch, were really good. Anthony Georgiou, who's been patient because he's not been in the team. Max (Kretzschmar), who's obviously been coming back from injury.

"We've pushed him back today, and because of time on the pitch, he was down to only play 30 minutes, but we had to push him and get him through. You saw the leadership he shows, and you saw his quality.

"It's a great ball in from Antony, and Max isn't here to do what Max does - he

scores goals. He has historically played in this league and at this level for quite a few seasons. So, we know Max has got those qualities, but I think it's easy to see we've not played as well as we have done in previous games."

The midweek acquisition of hat-trick hero Reid has boosted spirits in the camp following a barren spell in front of goal, offering Taylor further depth in his attacking ranks.

"We've got a player at a good age who understands the level. He wants to score goals. He's in front of the goal when he scores," said Taylor.

"His relationship with the players here will grow in terms of them understanding how he plays and him understanding what they want to do with the ball. We just looked more of a threat at

the top of the pitch. I'm not getting carried away as it was against Gosport, but you have to play the opposition in front of you, and we did that.

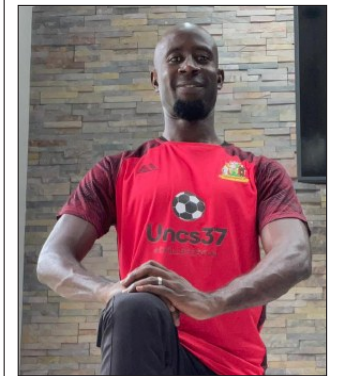
"I think the supporters were desperate for us to win. It always helps in the second half when we're going down towards our supporters. They will help in terms of trying to suck the ball into the net, and I've said that previously.

"We found a way to win a game of football, and I'm pleased to be standing here, and we've won 4-1. It gives us a bit of confidence going into the league fixtures in the next couple of weeks."

Wealdstone's FA Cup journey will continue at Grimsby on November 2, but they return to National League action against Yeovil Town at Grosvenor Vale this weekend.

Harrow helped by Adomah

FORMER PLAYER AGREES TO SPONSOR YOUTH TEAM SHIRTS



Albert Adomah wearing the kit he is sponsoring

HARROW Borough have confirmed former player Albert Adomah as the new sponsor of their youth teams.

Adomah, now at League Two club Walsall, joined Harrow Borough in 2006 before working his way up the leagues, with spells at Aston Villa and QPR. He recently made his 700th professional appearance, but has always fondly remembered and appreciated where it all started.

Announcing the sponsorship on his Instagram and X accounts, Adomah said: "Proud moment! Main shirt sponsor of Harrow Borough FC U-18s and U-23s." In a sentimental touch, he posted a photo wearing the kit he is now sponsoring and one from his early Harrow Borough days. Godfrey Torto, founder of AG Football Academy, who already collaborate with the club, added: "It's brilliant to see Albert giving something back to Harrow Borough who played a huge part in his quest for professional football. With his support, hopefully we can continue to develop players involved with Harrow Borough and AG Football Academy, who can go on to achieve what Albert has."

Harrow's youth teams have already seen a number of young players join professional clubs. Henry Curtis signed for Ipswich Town after playing as a 16-year-old for Harrow Under-23s. Fellow defender Ameer Ali and midfielder Josh Hamilton-Olise are both now with Bournemouth, and striker Joden Trickett was scouted by Sutton United.

Harrow's Under-18s are in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League, playing their home games at Brunel University. The Under-23s are in the Suburban League Premier Division and play their games at the club's ground, The Rogers Family Stadium in South Harrow. See social media @harrowborolive (X), @harrowboroughfc (Instagram) and @ag_football_academy (Instagram).